

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 143281

FOLLOWING REPEAT LUBUMBASHI 0650 ACTION KINSHASA INFO
SECSTATE, BRUSSELS, LUSAKA, PARIS, RABAT AND USCINCEUR
JUN 06.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L LUBUMBASHI 0650

E.O.11652 GDS
TAGS: MOPSQKPINS, EMIN
SUBJECT: SHABAN DEVELOPMENT: JUNE 6,1978

1. MILITARY : NO HOSTILITIES REPORTED. US AIR FORCE SUPPORT
OPERATIONS BEGAN
ON JUNE 5 WITH THE ARRIVAL OF SIX US
MISSIONS CARRYING 209 MOROCCAN TROOPS AND THEIR EQUIPMENT
PLUS ASSORTED COMMUNICATIONS GEAR. AN AIR FRANCE CHARTER
747 BROUGHT AN ADDED 363 MOROCCAN TROOPS, INCLUDING COLONEL
LOUBARIS
BUT THEIR DISEMBARCATION WAS DELAYED ABOUT THIRY
MINUTES WHILE NERVOUS AIRPORT OFFICIALS LOOKED FOR A RAMP
WHICHWOULD SERVICE A 747. FIRST FRENCH LEGIONNNAIRES
SCHEDULED TO DEPART ON JUNE 6. PRESIDENT MOBUTU IS
SCHEDULED TO DECORATE LEGIONNAIRES AT CEREMONY
THIS MORNING IN LUBUMBASHI.
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2. VICE CONSUL VISITED KOLWEZI JUNE 5 UNDER AUSPICES OF
FRENCH MILITARY COMMAND. OLD AND NEW EUROPEAN QUARTERS
OF CITY REMAIN DESERTED EXCEPT FOR LOOTERS WHO CONTINUE
TO WORK AREA OVER. CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT REMAINS
ABANDONED ALTHOUGH FOUR GREEK/LEBANESE EXPATRIATES HAD
RETURNED IN LAST TWO DAYS TO THEIR GUTTED STORES. THE

DEBRIS IN THE STREETS HAS BEEN COMPLETELY REMOVED LEAVING KOLWEZI SPOTLESS EXTERIOR APPEARANCE. TOWN TOTALLY DEVOID OF PRIVATE AUTOMOBILES, SOME 30 SALVAGEABLE VEHICLES HAVING BEEN ASSEMBLED IN GECAMINES MAIN PARKING LOT ON THE EDGE OF TOWN. VICE CONSUL COUNTED FIVE OPERATIONAL CARS DURING TOUR OF KOLWEZI. SMALL GROUPS OF ZAIRIANS STOOD ALONG THE STREET WATCHING THE VISITORS AS IF THEY EXPECTED SOMETHING TO HAPPEN, BUT WITH BLANK EMOTIONLESS STARES.

3. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF SEVERAL ROADBLOCKS, FAZ TROOPS WERE NOT SEEN PATROLLING DOWNTOWN AREA. HOWEVER REPORTS INDICATED FAZ CONASNUES THEIR FORCED ENTRIES INTO ZAIRIAN HOMES AT BAYONET POINT TO EXTORT FEW REMAINING PERSONEL POSSESSIONS FROM RESIDENT ZAIRIANS. FAZ HAD REPORTED HALTED FORMER TACTIC OF MACHINE GUNNING DOORS TO OBTAIN ENTRY BECAUSE FRENCH LEGIONNAIRES TOO FREQUENTLY HEARD GUNFIRE AND INTERFERED WITH OPERATIONS. FAZ TROOPS RETURNING TO LUBUMBASHI ON FRENCH MILITARY AIRCRAFT CARRIED FIBERGLASS LUGGAGE, SMALL KITCHEN APPLIANCES AND RADIOS.

4. FRENCH MAINTAIN 150 PARATROOPERS IN KOLWEZI. BUSINESS AS USUAL AT FRENCH MILITARY COMMAND AT IMPALA HOTEL COMMANDER SECOND REGIMENT OF PARATROOPERS INDICATED THAT FRENCH CONTINUE TO PATROL OUTSKIRTS OF KOLWEZI
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WITHOUT INCIDENTS OR REBEL CONTACT. THEY CONTINUED TO HAVE LITTLE CONTACT WITH FAZ TROOPS WHOSE ACTIVITIES REMAINED APPARENTLY RESTRICTED TO INNER CITY. REGIMENTAL COMMANDER SAID THEY HAD NOT YET RECEIVED EVACUATION ORDERS. LIKEWISE NO OTHER FOREIGN TROOPS, IE MOROCCANS HAD ARRIVED.

5. VICE CONSUL SPOKE WITH TWO EXPATRIATE GECAMINES OFFICIALS WHO HAD COME TO KOLWEZI WITH 2 Z MILLION PAYROLL. THEY MAINTAINED ALL GECAMINES FACILITIES IN KOLWEZI, INCLUDING SOPHISTICATED KAMOTO UNDERGROUND MINE, PARTIALLY OPERATIONAL EXCEPT FOR LUILU AND METALKAT COPPER AND ZINC REFINERIES. THEY VENTURED ESTIMATE THAT WHILE ZAIRIAN CADER COULD PROBABLY RUN FACILITIES IN KOLWEZI AREA AT 40 PC CAPACITY TEMPORARILY WITHOUT EXPATRIATE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE OPERATIONS WOULD SOON GRIND TO HALT DUE TO MAINTENANCE PROBLEMS. ALREADY SEVERAL PUMPS IN KAMOTO UNDERGROUND MINE WERE DOWN AND CONSEQUENTLY COOPER ORE COMING OUT LIKE MUD. MOREOVER SEVERAL LARGE ORE-CARRYING TRUCKS IN THE OPEN PIT MINES WERE NOW DOWN FOR REPAIRS. GECAMINES EXPATRIATES CONFIDENT THAT ZAIRIAN

CADRE WOULD HAVE TO ADOPT MORE GRADUAL APPROACH TO
REOPENING MINING OPERATIONS.

6. PRESIDENT MOBUTU ACTIVITIES: JOURNALISTS
THINKING THEY WERE HEADED FOR BATTLE ZONE, POSSIBLY
MUTSHATSHA, BOARDED PRESIDENTS PLANE ON MORNING OF
JUNE 5 FOR TRIP TO OTRAGS PLATEUR LAUNCH SITE WHERE
THEY WITNESSED SECOND OTRAG TEST ROCKET LAUNCH OF
1978 ROCKET ASCENDED A SHORT DISTANCE, SPUTTERED
AND FELL INTO NEARBY VALLEY, EXPLODING ON IMPACT.
AUDIENCE UNSURE ABOUT WHAT WAS SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN
POLITELY APPLAUDED.

7. LUBUMBSHI: SUPERFICIAL CALM PREVAILS. FRENCH
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AMBASSADOR SPENT JUNE 5 LISTENING TO NERVOUS
EXPATRIATES EXPRESS THEIR FEARS THAT FRENCH LEGION
NAIRES WERE PULLING OUT BEFORE PAN AFRICAN FORCE HAS
ESTABLISHED ITSELF. THERE ARE REPORTS THAT ZAMBIAN
PRESIDENT KENNETH KAUNDA IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE
OGN LUBUMBASHI TODAY. BORG
UNQUOTE VANCE

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